

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested in light of the above amendments and the following remarks.

A telephone interview was conducted on January 12, 2009. The participants were Examiner Shelly Chase and David Ward, a representative of the Applicants. During the interview, the basis for making the pending office action final was discussed. The examiner noted that, in the Amendment of June 24, 2008, (1) claim 1 was amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 2 and (2) claim 4 previously depended from claim 1 without the subject matter of claim 2, while claim 4 now depends from amended claim 1 which includes the combined subject matter of original claims 1 and 2. The Examiner stated that because the combined subject matter of claims 1, 2, and 4 was not recited in an originally filed claim, the amendments created a new issue of patentability and that several other dependent claims contain this same type of issue. Thus, the examiner stated that the claim amendments presented by Applicants on June 24, 2008, raised new issues of patentability requiring an updated search of the prior art. No agreement was reached.

The Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication in the Office Action that claims 25-31 and 33 are allowed and claims 5, 7 and 15 are allowable. Allowable claims 5, 7, and 15 have been rewritten in independent form to include all limitations of base claim 1 and any intervening claim. Therefore, allowance of claims 5, 7, and 15 is deemed to be warranted.

Claims 1, 3, 4, 8-10, 12, 13, 18, 24, and 32 have been canceled.

In view of the above, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance, and a notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

If any issues remain which may best be resolved through a telephone communication, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned at the local Washington, D.C. telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

/James Edward Ledbetter/

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